

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

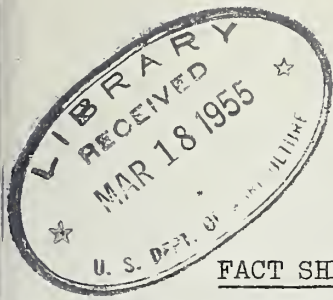
A41
R313

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY



BOOK NUMBER
381775

A41
R313



November 1954

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service

881775

FACT SHEET FOR ACCELERATED BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION PROGRAM

THE NATIONAL PROGRAM AGAINST BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS is being accelerated to reduce the level of infection throughout the country and approach complete eradication as rapidly as possible. The expanded drive is being made now because incidence of the disease, as shown among the cattle tested during the past year, has been reduced to the point where a concerted effort can wipe it out. Furthermore, growing support for the program has demonstrated that full cooperation in an accelerated campaign can be expected from the livestock owner, other segments of the livestock industry, and related groups.

BRUCELLOSIS is the most serious, widespread--and expensive--disease of livestock in the United States. Its chief symptom is abortion, but it has many other debilitating effects. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that, based on 1953 cost and production figures, it is causing annual losses to the cattle industry of \$58 million a year. The disease reduces milk output of infected animals by about 20 percent, costing milk producers \$35 million a year. Replacement of infected cows costs another \$16 million. The disease reduces the calf crop of infected cows by 15 percent, costing an additional \$7 million.

THE CURRENT PROGRAM is an expansion of the Federal-State program which has been in operation since 1934. It is based on finding diseased animals by testing herds, and getting rid of reactors as quickly as possible, plus the use of proper sanitation and herd management. Vaccination of calves is used wherever necessary to build up immunity. In July 1954, Congress authorized the use of additional funds to accelerate the drive. These funds will be used in part to restore maximum indemnities to \$25 for grade animals and \$50 for purebreds slaughtered in the eradication program. States with cooperative agreements are no longer required to match Federal payments to owners. But Federal payments will not be made in States where authorities request that no such payments be included in the program. To receive indemnity payments, the owner must be carrying out one of the approved eradication plans.

FOUR PLANS are used in the program, according to the varying conditions under which brucellosis is found. Plan A calls for testing the herd, immediate slaughter of reactors, cleaning and disinfecting of premises, retesting at 30-day intervals, and possible vaccination of calves. Plan B requires herd testing, calf vaccination, marking reactors, and keeping reactors under quarantine until they can be marketed without heavy losses. In Plan C, suitable for range herds, calves are vaccinated but the herd is not tested. Plan D, used only as an emergency measure, provides for vaccination of nonreacting adult cattle.

TESTING is the first step toward eradicating brucellosis. Usually symptoms of the disease are not visibly apparent to the owner or the veterinarian. Two methods of testing are used to locate infection: (1) The ring test is made on composite milk samples of from 5 to 12 animals; and (2) the blood test is made on blood samples from individual animals. The ring test is used to screen whole herds and areas quickly and economically. If evidence of infection is found, then individual reactors are tracked down by the blood test.

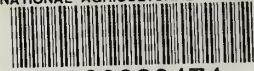
VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS have always cooperated in the eradication program and helped to speed its progress. In the past, they could work only on a per diem basis, thus making it impossible to give attention to their private practice on the days they worked with the program. Regulations have been changed to provide fees for testing, vaccinating, and marking animals on a per-herd and per-head basis. Therefore, even greater cooperation can be expected from the practicing veterinarian without weakening the veterinary service of the community. There will be no material additions to Federal personnel.

THE JOB CAN BE DONE. Great strides have already been made. Three States have become modified certified brucellosis-free by reducing infection to less than 1 percent of animals tested--North Carolina in 1942, New Hampshire in 1949, Maine in 1950. Several other States have nearly reached this goal. Nationally, the first limited testing of cattle in 1934 showed about 1 in 10 infected. Steady work over the years reduced the incidence to less than 1 in 20 just after World War II, less than 1 in 30 in 1953, to 1 in 38 as of now. A slight increase in the percentage of reactors found is expected during early months of the accelerated drive. This increase would be the result of two factors: (1) Testing more herds never before included in the program and therefore never having benefited from a systematic method of finding and removing diseased animals; and (2) increased use of the ring test, meaning that a higher percentage of individual blood tests will be made on herds already screened and known to be infected.

GOALS are being set in several States for major steps in the brucellosis eradication campaign. Alabama plans during 1955 to encourage adoption of the U.S. Milk Ordinance and Code by most county and city health units. California, beginning in 1956, will require blood-testing and/or vaccination. Colorado has announced that all dairy herds must be operating under Plan A not later than January 1, 1956. Delaware will require all milk suppliers (except one condensary) to operate under Plan A. Illinois will require all Grade A dairy herds to operate under an official plan beginning in 1955, all breeding herds not later than July 1957. Maryland will require all herds to operate under Plan A during 1955. New Jersey has amended its public health laws to specify that only milk from brucellosis-free herds may be sold after April 1, 1958. Ohio has declared that all counties must participate in area plans not later than 1957. South Carolina law specifies that, starting in 1955, only milk from brucellosis-free herds may be sold.

THIS IS A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. The active eradication program is administered by State and Federal veterinarians under written agreements between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and State Departments of Agriculture. These agreements have been made with 46 States and 2 Territories. The Cooperative Extension Service assists in helping to organize the program on State and county levels and to provide necessary information to livestock owners. The National Brucellosis Committee--made up of representative groups interested in livestock and human health--is playing a major part in creating widespread interest and support for the program. The National Committee also encourages the establishment of State and county brucellosis committees. These committees are now operating in at least 33 States, and others are in the process of becoming established.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY



1022830474